(b) and (c) As per Census 2001, a total of 40,490 inhabited villages remains to be covered with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility in the country which includes 896 villages in Uttar Pradesh. The remaining villages in the country are likely to be covered with VPT facility by February, 2011 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in progressive manner.

Telephone connection in Rural Areas

†3522. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether difficulties are being faced in getting telephone connection in rural areas and PCO connection at Panchayat level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether telephones sets being provided with new connection are of inferior quality;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Against the envisaged target of 4% teledensity in rural areas by 2010 under New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99), the present teledensity is 16.54% as on 31.05.2009 as a result of various initiatives of the Government. No difficulties are being faced in providing mobile connections in rural areas, where mobile coverage exists. However, the main reasons for difficulties generally faced in providing wire line and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone connection in rural areas and also PCO connections at Panchayat level are given below :-

(i) Non availability of cable pair in some cases, especially in remote, hilly and thinly populated areas.

(ii) Non availability of WLL signal in some areas.

(iii) Disturbed law and order situation.

(iv) Damage to primary cable by roadways authorities at the time of digging for road widening affecting provision of new connections.

Despite these difficulties, Government is making following corrective measures to provide telephone connections in rural areas :-

(i) In hilly areas, where laying of underground cable is not feasible, overhead lines are erected.

(ii) Where the connection is not possible by laying underground cable or overhead lines, Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are installed to make the areas feasible on WLL.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Mobile telephone sets are being purchased by the consumers. However, Telephone sets for new wire line and WLL connections are being provided after inspection by the quality and assurance wing of BSNL.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Communication services in Orissa

3523. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that communication services in Orissa are in bad condition and their expansion is taking place at a very slow pace;

(b) the efforts made by Government till date during the last two years to provide communication services at a fast speed in the State and what is the outcome thereof;

(c) by when Orissa is likely to be brought under cent-per cent communication services; and

(d) the reasons for not achieving this target till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Sir, the telephone and mobile services provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Orissa are mostly meeting with Quality of Service (QoS) parameters. The QoS provided by BSNL in Orissa is comparable to those rendered by private companies.

(b) to (d) The expansion of BSNL's telecom network in Orissa is being progressively done as per the market requirements. Details are given below :-

Sl.No.	Parameter	Achievement (2007-08)	Achievement (2008-09)
1.	Landline Capacity	2284	816
2.	WLL Capacity	48750	9500
3.	GSM Mobile Capacity	186906	573700
4.	Broadband Capacity	66,696 Ports	27,712 Ports

Moreover, to provide communications services at a fast speed in Orissa State, BSNL has made the following plans during the current financial year 2009-10:

(i) 3.87 Lakh lines capacity addition with 495 numbers of Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) mobile Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs).

(ii) 1 Lakh lines capacity addition with Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) based 145 numbers of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) BTSs.

(iii) Replacement of 124 numbers of old WLL BTs by new MSC based WLL BTSs.

(iv) Replacement of 13 number of Cor-Dect technology BTSs by new MSC based WLL BTSs.